

STORY 38.

A MUSLIM SOLDIER'S SENSE OF DISCIPLINE.

THE COMMON CAUSE IS EVERYTHING. THE SELF
IS NOTHING.

(Hazrat) Khalid the sword of God as the Prophet had called him won great victories for Islam. He fought scores of battles and was always victorious.

The soldiers who fought under him began to have unbounded confidence in him, and some of them thought that it was his skill as a general and not the help of God which brought victory to the Muslim army.

Now the Caliph (Hazrat) Omar was a very far-seeing man. He at once made up his mind that this growing feeling must be nipped in the bud. In order to show to the Muslims that even in the absence of (Hazrat) Khalid, God would vouchsafe victories to them he removed (Hazrat) Khalid from the Supreme command and made (Hazrat) Abu Obeida the Commander. This was so (Hazrat) Omar like and so pregrant with the spirit of Islam.

People thought that (Hazrat) Khalid with his proud sensitive spirit would resent this affront, and retire from the army. But (Hazrat) Khalid was (Hazrat) Khalid. He was permeated to the core with the spirit of self-surrender and discipline engendered by Islam. He said. "I am fighting

not for personal ends, but for a great cause, and will go on fighting as a common soldier under (Hazrat) Abu Obeida."

Personal pride and self-aggrandizement have no place in Islam.